

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**IN03-OIG-LA-0662-S**



Office of Inspector General

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United States Department of Homeland Security



U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Office of Inspector General – Investigations

## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number	IN03-OIG-LA-0662-S
Case Title	Air and Marine Interdiction Coordination Center
Report Status	Final
Alleged Violation(s)	Misuse of Resources

### SYNOPSIS

This report documents the results of an Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation into allegations that Air and Marine Interdiction Coordination Center (AMICC), Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assets were misused in assisting a state law enforcement agency. Specifically, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) requested AMICC to locate an aircraft transporting Texas state legislators from Oklahoma to Texas on May 12, 2003.

On May 15, 2003, Acting Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin received a telephone call from Mark Wallace, Principal Legal Advisor to Michael Garcia, Assistant Secretary Designee for BICE, referring for investigation a matter concerning alleged DHS involvement in a federal effort to find missing Texas state lawmakers. Subsequently, Members of Congress wrote to the OIG requesting an investigation into this matter and requested that several issues described later in this report be addressed by the OIG. The scope of the OIG investigation was limited to the specific issue involving alleged misuse of DHS assets in assisting state law enforcement in locating a reported "missing aircraft." The OIG investigation did not address the actions of the DPS following their request for AMICC assistance, nor did the OIG assess the propriety of AMICC's existing guidelines relating to the rendering of assistance to other law enforcement agencies. The alleged destruction of notes by the DPS was referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), San Antonio, Texas, for their consideration.

The OIG investigation found that DPS did contact the AMICC and reported that they "had a problem," and "could not find this plane" which contained Texas state representatives. The DPS requested DHS to assist them in locating the aircraft. The OIG investigation concluded the assistance rendered by AMICC was limited to not more than forty minutes of telephone calls

<b>Reporting Agent</b>	
Name: [REDACTED]	Signature: [REDACTED]
Title: Supervisory Special Agent	Date: 6/13/03
<b>Approving Official</b>	
Name: Joseph Artes	Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
Title: Special Agent in Charge	Date: 6/13/03

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Redacted for public release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(2), (6), (7)(C).

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made by an AMICC employee to various Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and airport representatives in Texas, and a series of conversations with [REDACTED] supervisors. The AMICC personnel involved in this incident described this assistance as a typical request from a law enforcement agency, which reportedly occurs at least thirty times a day and is in compliance with their standard operating procedures. At no time did AMICC launch any aircraft or otherwise use DHS resources to assist the DPS. The telephone calls made by AMICC at the request of DPS involved a nominal use of DHS assets.

AMICC's account of these events was documented on audiotape (and transcript), which was reviewed by OIG investigators and found to be consistent with the statements of AMICC employees involved in the incident. There was every indication that the employee rendering assistance to the DPS on the telephone believed he was searching for a missing aircraft.

DPS officials interviewed by the OIG declined to provide any information identifying the person or persons who requested they contact AMICC for assistance. DPS officials claimed they destroyed all notes, memoranda, or other correspondence related to this incident.

This case is closed with the submission of this report.

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# REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

## INTRODUCTION

On May 15, 2003, Acting Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin<sup>1</sup> received a telephone call from Mark Wallace, Principal Legal Advisor to Michael Garcia, Assistant Secretary Designee for BICE, referring for investigation a matter concerning alleged DHS involvement in a federal effort to find missing Texas state lawmakers. At this time Wallace advised that his office was in possession of an audiotape related to this matter. (Exhibit 1)

Subsequently, the OIG received three letters from Members of Congress. The first letter, dated May 15, 2003, was from Representative John Conyers, Jr. and other members. The second letter, dated May 21, 2003, was from Representative Lloyd Doggett and other members. The third letter, dated May 22, 2003, was from Senator Joseph Lieberman. All these letters requested the OIG to investigate this matter to determine if DHS assets were misused in attempting to locate the missing Texas state lawmakers. Senator Lieberman's letter also requested that the OIG expand its investigation to include the alleged destruction of documents by the DPS. (Exhibit 2)

The scope of the OIG investigation was limited to the actions of AMICC personnel in rendering assistance to DPS in locating a reported "missing aircraft." This investigation did not address the post incident actions of the DPS or the actions of any other federal agency rendering assistance to DPS. Insofar as the assistance provided by AMICC was *de minimis*, the OIG did not expand the scope of this investigation or investigate the document destruction by DPS. The conduct of DPS was referred to the FBI for whatever action they deemed appropriate.

## DETAILS

**Allegation:** It was alleged that AMICC misused its resources by providing assistance to track and locate an aircraft transporting State of Texas legislators.

On May 20, 2003, the OIG recovered from General Counsel's Office, BICE, audiotapes and a videotape (audio only) relating to the recording of the assistance provided by AMICC, on May 12, 2003. (Exhibit 3)

Charles E. Stallworth, Director, Air and Marine Interdiction (A&MI), BICE, DHS, Washington, D.C., was interviewed and stated that [REDACTED], Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Texas, had requested the assistance of AMICC. AMICC attempted to assist DPS in the

<sup>1</sup> On May 16, 2003, Acting Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin recused himself from any participation in this investigation due to his prior employment by the State of Texas, and the possibility he might know one or more of the State of Texas employees involved in this matter. See Exhibit 1.

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location of an aircraft allegedly carrying Texas state lawmakers. According to Stallworth, AMICC acted appropriately and in accordance with agency guidelines in responding to what AMICC, based on information available at the time, believed to be a legitimate law enforcement request for assistance. (Exhibit 4)

██████████ Senior Detection Systems Specialist (DSS), AMICC, BICE, DHS, Riverside (all further references to AMICC are for this site), was interviewed and stated that on May 12, 2003, a call was received from ██████████ requesting assistance in determining the location of an aircraft believed to be overdue. ██████████ assigned the call to ██████████ DSS, AMICC, to provide assistance in locating the aircraft.

According to ██████████ AMICC receives 30 to 40 calls daily requesting assistance as a matter of public safety from individuals, localities, states, etc. ██████████ provided a copy of the "AMICC Training and Operations Manual," which states, in part, that when resources allow, support will be provided to assist federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies for humanitarian efforts. ██████████ concurred with the steps ██████████ took in an attempt to locate the aircraft. (Exhibits 5, 6)

██████████ was interviewed and stated that on May 12, 2003, ██████████ was assigned to assist ██████████ in locating an aircraft with Texas officials on board. ██████████ attempted to locate the aircraft but was unsuccessful. ██████████ advised ██████████ of ██████████ results and related ██████████ could contact ██████████ the Dallas Fort Worth Airport to request search and rescue. At that time, ██████████ declined ██████████ offer to be put in touch with FAA to initiate a search and rescue. However, ██████████ later called ██████████ back and requested the information on how ██████████ could go about requesting a search and rescue. ██████████ provided ██████████ with the contact information for Ft. Worth Center to initiate the search and rescue. (Exhibits 7, 8)

██████████ DSS, AMICC, was interviewed and stated that on May 12, 2003, ██████████ received a call from the FAA, as a result of a call placed to them earlier by ██████████ explaining the FAA had no contact with the alleged missing aircraft. ██████████ provided the information to ██████████ (Exhibit 9)

██████████ and ██████████ AMICC, stated that all calls on the operations floor, incoming and outgoing, are recorded. (Exhibit 10)

██████████ AMICC, was on the operations floor at AMICC, on May 12, 2003, when ██████████ briefed ██████████ about the alleged missing aircraft and ██████████ attempts to locate the aircraft. ██████████ concurred with the actions ██████████ had taken in attempting to locate the aircraft. AMICC assists in looking for downed aircraft for humanitarian reasons. In this specific case, AMICC was assisting a law enforcement agency. It is always the policy to assist law enforcement agencies that are attempting to locate an aircraft. On the average, this type of assistance occurs "30 to 40 times per day," according to ██████████ (Exhibit 11)

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[REDACTED] Special Crimes Service, Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Texas, was interviewed and stated [REDACTED] knew that the U.S. Customs Service (referred to here as AMICC) tracked airplanes, so [REDACTED] made the contact. [REDACTED] stated that several individuals, whom [REDACTED] would not identify, requested [REDACTED] look for the airplane. [REDACTED] did not recall with whom at AMICC [REDACTED] had spoken. According to [REDACTED] AMICC attempted to locate the airplane and ultimately advised [REDACTED] they could not locate it. [REDACTED] believed that the total time the AMICC employee assisted [REDACTED] was 15 minutes. (Exhibit 12)

[REDACTED] AMICC, was interviewed and stated [REDACTED] began receiving calls from newspapers, news services, and television news programs, on May 13, 2003. Additionally, [REDACTED] received a call from Congressman Ken Calvert's office which expressed shock that AMICC was involved in looking for the aircraft. [REDACTED] referred the callers to the public affairs office for BICE, DHS, Washington, D.C. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] had not had any requests from Congress or the Administration relating to the aircraft. (Exhibits 13, 14)

The OIG attempted to interview [REDACTED], DPS, on May 22, 2003, relating to alleged missing notes prepared by [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] attempt to locate the missing aircraft. At that time, [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was unavailable for an interview. It was later determined that an interview of [REDACTED] was not necessary due to the scope of this investigation. (Exhibit 15)

[REDACTED] FBI, San Antonio, Texas, was interviewed and stated the FBI was not interested in investigating the alleged destruction of notes and documents by the Texas DPS related to the Texas state lawmakers. (Exhibit 16)

Joseph Bendig, Director, AMICC, was interviewed in response to comments attributed to him in an article appearing in the Washington Post newspaper, dated June 7, 2003. According to Bendig, his comments were taken out of context. Bendig stated the reporter asked, "How often does AMICC get calls from law enforcement for this type of assistance?" Bendig construed this to mean requests for assistance to locate a lost aircraft with politicians on board and stated that such calls are unusual. Bendig further clarified that AMICC does get calls from law enforcement, but not necessarily calls to locate aircraft carrying politicians. (Exhibit 17)

[REDACTED] was interviewed to determine if AMICC verifies the identity of callers requesting assistance. According to [REDACTED] when requests for information are received by AMICC, they call back the requestor to verify their identity. In this instance, when the call for assistance came in on May 12, 2003, a call-back procedure was not deemed necessary. Rather, [REDACTED] noted that the AMICC phone system displayed that the call originated from a "Texas Government" telephone extension. [REDACTED] believed that further verification was unnecessary. (Exhibit 18)

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## EXHIBIT 8



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2  
3  
4 U.S. CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
5

6 PHONE ON CONSOLE 07 - 12MAY03  
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14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19 STENOWRITERS  
20 12512 Bryce Circle  
21 Cerritos, California 90703  
22 562.860.8300  
23  
24  
25

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] how may I help you?  
2 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] my name is [REDACTED] I'm a  
3 [REDACTED] with DPS in Austin, Texas.  
4 [REDACTED] Yes.  
5 [REDACTED]: Got a problem. Hope you can help me  
6 out. We had a plane that was supposedly to be going from  
7 Ardmore, Oklahoma to Georgetown, Texas. It had state  
8 representatives in it, and we cannot find this plane.  
9 [REDACTED] Okay. What's the tail number of  
10 the airplane?  
11 [REDACTED]: NORA-711 ROBERT DAVID.  
12 [REDACTED]: Robert David.  
13 [REDACTED]: Now we checked with the Austin  
14 flight line, and they had no flight plan for that plane.  
15 [REDACTED] And you said it was going from --  
16 [REDACTED] Ardmore, Oklahoma.  
17 [REDACTED] -- To Georgetown?  
18 [REDACTED]: To Georgetown, Texas. And they have  
19 supposedly left at 5:00.  
20 [REDACTED] Okay. You haven't talked to any of  
21 the FAA people or --  
22 [REDACTED] No, I have not.  
23 [REDACTED] Okay. Can I get a phone number for  
24 you?  
25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] --

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] And my name is [REDACTED] Last name is  
7 [REDACTED] and I'm with DPS.

8 [REDACTED] Okay. I'm going to go ahead and  
9 try to contact some FAA people and see if they have any  
10 information on this, and we'll check to see if we have  
11 any flight plans on it.

12 [REDACTED] Okay.

13 [REDACTED] See if we can find it and give you  
14 a call back here, okay?

15 [REDACTED] Okay.

16 [REDACTED] All right.

17 [REDACTED] Bye.

18 [REDACTED] Okay. Bye.

19 [REDACTED] Bye.

20 (Call ends).

21  
22  
23 [REDACTED] Fort Worth Center [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED] Hey, [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] with  
25 Customs Radar. I'm trying to find an airplane.



1 [REDACTED] Okay.  
2 [REDACTED] It's NOV-711 ROMEO DELTA. It was  
3 due in to Plainview, Texas.

4 [REDACTED] It was due in to Plainview?

5 [REDACTED] Yeah.

6 [REDACTED] Today?

7 [REDACTED] Yeah, today.

8 [REDACTED]: Huh.

9 [REDACTED] And it's saying 00:45 and the  
10 people's trying to find it, and I can't see it on the  
11 radar or anything, and they don't have an active flight  
12 plan on it, but there is a proposal coming out of  
13 Ardmore, Oklahoma going down to Plainview.

14 [REDACTED]: All right. Hang on a second.

15 [REDACTED] Okay.

16 [REDACTED]: At 23:48.

17 [REDACTED] 23:48.

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was about 11 miles south of  
19 Ardmore, and we show [REDACTED] went via far into Mineral Wells.

20 [REDACTED] Mineral Wells?

21 [REDACTED] Yes. MWL.

22 [REDACTED] MWL. All right. And [REDACTED] went --  
23 you know what time [REDACTED] landed there?

24 [REDACTED] No, I did not.

25 [REDACTED] Okay. You wouldn't happen to have

1 a phone number for them, would you?

2 [REDACTED] I can find one.

3 [REDACTED] Okay. If you would please.

4 [REDACTED] Okay. Airport 2 you want --

5 [REDACTED] Probably an FBO or manager or  
6 somebody there. If it has the tower, that would be  
7 great, but I don't think so.

8 [REDACTED] I don't have a tower.

9 [REDACTED] Okay.

10 [REDACTED] Let's see here. Airport  
11 Authority or -- that's about all we got here [REDACTED] --

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] --  
13 [REDACTED] : [REDACTED] --  
14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] --  
15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And Mineral Wells exactly

17 where is that?

18 [REDACTED] It melts out via war do you know  
19 where that's at?

20 [REDACTED] No.

21 [REDACTED] Well, it's west of Fort Worth  
22 about 40 miles.

23 [REDACTED] 40 miles west of Fort Worth?

24 [REDACTED] Yeah.

25 [REDACTED] Okay, [REDACTED] Appreciate that. Thank

1 you, [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]: You bet.

3 [REDACTED] All right. Bye.

4 (Call ends).

5  
6 (Phone Busy).

7  
8  
9 [REDACTED] Airport.

10 [REDACTED] Yes, [REDACTED] My name is [REDACTED] I work  
11 with U.S. Customs out of Riverside, California.

12 [REDACTED] Yes.

13 [REDACTED] Trying to track down an airplane  
14 for some people up in Oklahoma.

15 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

16 [REDACTED] It's supposed to have some  
17 government officials on it.

18 [REDACTED] Okay.

19 [REDACTED] NOV--711 ROMEO DELTA, and I just  
20 spoke with Dallas Fort Worth Center, and they said about  
21 23:48 he was 11 miles heading into Mineral Wells, and  
22 that was the last thing that they knew about [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] And what time was that?

24 [REDACTED] 2348 ZULU. It's about an hour ago.

25 [REDACTED] All right. About an hour ago?



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[REDACTED] 50 minutes ago.

[REDACTED] Let's see. It's not on the fuel log. I haven't heard that pin number yet. 711 ROMEO Delta?

[REDACTED] Right.

[REDACTED] No, haven't heard that.

[REDACTED] All right. Is there any way we can get somebody to check out the airport see if it is actually there?

[REDACTED] Yeah. I can go through all the hangers and everything else.

[REDACTED] Okay. You know -- we -- I'm just trying to find it for this guy up in Ardmore, Oklahoma. It was supposed to be going into Plainview, Texas later on but...

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] was going to make a stop here for fuel or?

[REDACTED] I don't know if it was stopping there for fuel or what. But I'm just going by what Dallas Fort Worth gave me.

[REDACTED] What kind of plane was it?

[REDACTED] PA-2.

[REDACTED] PA-2.

[REDACTED] Yeah, PAY-2.

[REDACTED] Okay.

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[REDACTED] Pagan 2.

[REDACTED] Okay. Well, I'll go and check  
all the ramps and drive through all the feed hangers  
and --

[REDACTED] Okay, sir. And my phone number  
here -- if you give us call back and just ask for the New  
Mexico desk.

[REDACTED] Okay.

[REDACTED] Is [REDACTED] And what was  
your name, sir?

[REDACTED] This is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yeah.

[REDACTED] Okay, sir. I appreciate your help.

[REDACTED]: Okay.

[REDACTED] All right, sir.

[REDACTED] All right.

[REDACTED] Bye.

[REDACTED] Bye.

(Call ends).

1 the airport to see if [REDACTED] can find the aircraft there.

2 [REDACTED] That's all we want to do is --

3 [REDACTED] Yeah.

4 [REDACTED] No contact being made.

5 [REDACTED] Yeah.

6 [REDACTED] Okay.

7 [REDACTED] No contact at this time, you know,  
8 we're just going out there to see. I just want to let  
9 you know on the update that we hadn't forgot about you.

10 [REDACTED] Great.

11 [REDACTED] And we'll give you a call as soon  
12 as we find out anything, sir.

13 [REDACTED] Okay, [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] Okay.

15 [REDACTED] Thank you.

16 [REDACTED] Bye.

17 (Call Ends).

18  
19  
20  
21 (Phone Recording as Follows): This is Miller  
22 Flight Service. We're either out of the office for a few  
23 minutes or closed for the day. If you would like to  
24 leave a message you may do so at the beep  
25 [REDACTED]



1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 (Call ends).  
5  
6

7 [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED] Yes. [REDACTED] from  
9 (inaudible) Airport.  
10

11 [REDACTED] Yes, [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED] Are you who I spoke with?  
13 [REDACTED] Yes, [REDACTED] it is.  
14 [REDACTED] I checked everywhere, and it's  
15 not on the ground here.  
16

17 [REDACTED] It's not on the ground there?  
18 [REDACTED] No. What kind of plane was that  
19 anyway, twin engine?  
20

21 [REDACTED] PAY-Y2.  
22 [REDACTED] Hopper or Navy?  
23 [REDACTED] No. It's a Pasan. I'm not for  
24 sure. I don't have a picture of it. Okay. But you  
25 can't find anything on that airplane, huh?

[REDACTED] No. Haven't heard anything.

[REDACTED] I appreciate it, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I'll let you know if it does come

1 [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED] Yeah, [REDACTED] this is [REDACTED] with U.S.  
3 Customs out of Riverside.

4 [REDACTED]: Yes, [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] What I found out so far, I have not  
6 found your airplane yet.

7 [REDACTED]: Okay.  
8 [REDACTED] At 23:48 ZULU Dallas Fort Worth  
9 said that they had [REDACTED] 11 miles outside of Mineral Wells,  
10 Texas going into Mineral Wells.

11 [REDACTED] Okay.  
12 [REDACTED] I've just spoke with the port  
13 authority or the police department there a [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.  
15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is going out and check the area  
16 right now to see if [REDACTED] can find the airplane, and [REDACTED]  
17 give us a call back here.

18 [REDACTED] What time did you say 20 --  
19 [REDACTED] 23:48 Zulu which was just about 52  
20 minutes ago.

21 [REDACTED] Okay.  
22 [REDACTED] That's --  
23 [REDACTED] Outside of Mineral Wells?  
24 [REDACTED] Outside of Mineral Wells. And I do  
25 have the police authority there going out and looking at

1 in.

2 [REDACTED] Okay. I appreciate it. Bye.  
3 (Phone ends).  
4  
5

6 [REDACTED] Yes, sir, is this [REDACTED]?

7 [REDACTED]: Who are you calling?

8 [REDACTED] I'm trying to get ahold of [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] Plainview, Texas.

10 [REDACTED] Okay. You got [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED] Okay. All right. [REDACTED] my name is

12 [REDACTED] I work with U.S. Customs out of Riverside,  
13 California.

14 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

15 [REDACTED] There was an airplane that was  
16 supposed to come in at Plainview there out of Ardmore,  
17 Oklahoma a NOV-711 ROMEO DELTA.

18 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

19 [REDACTED] And the people up in Oklahoma is  
20 trying to find the airplane. They have not heard from it  
21 in a while. They were just wondering if it made it  
22 there?

23 [REDACTED]: Well, [REDACTED] doesn't base over at  
24 our side of the airport.

25 [REDACTED] Okay, [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]: So I don't -- I wouldn't have  
2 any way of knowing because I don't have a key to their  
3 hanger or anything.

4 [REDACTED] Okay. Who could I contact on the  
5 other side to see if [REDACTED] over there?

6 [REDACTED] Oh, well, [REDACTED] is the  
7 owner, but I don't -- [REDACTED] lives in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
8 out of town some so I'm not sure whether there would be  
9 anybody you could find over there tonight or not.

10 [REDACTED] Okay. Is there any way that I can  
11 find out where -- if the airplane is at the airport  
12 there? I mean, I don't know how big the airport is. I'm  
13 out in California.

14 [REDACTED]: Right.

15 [REDACTED] And these people up in Oklahoma  
16 they said that these people were like government  
17 officials, and they're trying to find them.

18 [REDACTED]: Yeah, I'm kind of familiar with  
19 that whole -- deal.

20 [REDACTED] Okay.

21 [REDACTED]: It made the paper today.

22 [REDACTED] Okay. I don't know what's going  
23 on. I'm just trying to find the people that's all.

24 [REDACTED] Yeah, I understand. Yeah, I don't  
25 know. Let's see trying to think of somebody. There's no



1 way I can find out because, like I say, if it's here and  
2 in the hanger, I wouldn't have anyway to find out.

3 [REDACTED] Okay.

4 [REDACTED]: You have --

5 [REDACTED] Do they just park the airplanes  
6 outside or --

7 [REDACTED]: No. It's got a hanger it  
8 belongs in. It wouldn't be left out here because we have  
9 such threat of thunderstorms.

10 [REDACTED] Okay.

11 [REDACTED]: But it supposedly left Ardmore  
12 is what they're saying?

13 [REDACTED] Yeah. FAA Fort Worth Center last  
14 contact they had with the airplane was at 23:48 Zulu  
15 which was just a little bit over an hour ago, and it was  
16 11 miles outside of Mineral Wells, Texas, which is  
17 probably 40 miles outside of Fort Worth.

18 [REDACTED]: Yeah, I know where Mineral Wells  
19 is.

20 [REDACTED] Yeah.

21 [REDACTED]: An hour ago outside of Mineral  
22 Wells?

23 [REDACTED] Yeah.

24 [REDACTED]: Huh, let's see, well -- the guy  
25 that's kind of in charge over there -- when [REDACTED]

1 is gone [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] Okay, sir,

3 [REDACTED] I don't know. Just a second.

4 [REDACTED] Okay, sir.

5 [REDACTED]: Well, supposedly, [REDACTED] phone  
6 number is [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

9 [REDACTED] Okay. And you say [REDACTED] kind of in  
10 charge when the other guys --

11 [REDACTED]: When the owner is gone, [REDACTED]  
12 kind of in charge of the business for [REDACTED] --

13 [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 [REDACTED] So [REDACTED] probably, if anybody,  
15 knows [REDACTED] probably know.

16 [REDACTED] Okay. All right, [REDACTED] I  
17 appreciate it very much.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. Thanks.

19 [REDACTED] Bye.

20 (Call ends).

21  
22  
23 (Phone call no answer).  
24  
25

1 [REDACTED] Front desk [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED] Yes, [REDACTED] this is  
3 [REDACTED] with Customs Radar again.  
4 [REDACTED] Yes.  
5 [REDACTED] I think spoke with you about 20  
6 minutes ago when A NOV-711 ROMEO DELTA.  
7 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.  
8 [REDACTED] Okay. I've called over to Mineral  
9 Wells. They can't find anything anyone there at the  
10 Mineral Wells Airport.  
11 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.  
12 [REDACTED] I called over, and I talked to the  
13 FBO people. They don't know anything about it in the  
14 Plainview. Is there any way that you can contact some of  
15 the FAA folks that might have talked with anyone its  
16 route over to Plainview to see if they have any updates  
17 on everything to find out if we can find this airplane?  
18 [REDACTED] Yeah. We can call around and see  
19 if we can find them somewhere. You say you called some  
20 FBOs or --  
21 [REDACTED] I called Miller Flying and --  
22 [REDACTED] At Mineral Wells?  
23 [REDACTED] No. At actually Plainview.  
24 [REDACTED] At Plainview?  
25 [REDACTED] Yeah. And I called the airport

1 authority there at Mineral Wells. They did send a car  
2 out and called us back and said they couldn't find it  
3 laying out there anywhere or, you know, in the area that  
4 wasn't locked up or anything.

5 [REDACTED] Right.

6 [REDACTED] So they gave me a name for a [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] there at Plainview. That's on the other side  
8 of the flying or the FBO. And I can't get no answer over  
9 there. I was going to send out maybe -- maybe call the  
10 local police department there and see if they can send a  
11 car out and check the airport to just see if it is out  
12 there. But they said it's usually inside of a hanger  
13 over there.

14 [REDACTED]: Yeah, that's probably likely it  
15 would be in a hanger already.

16 [REDACTED] Yeah, so, I don't know which --  
17 which of your facilities might have talked to them or?

18 [REDACTED] I'll tell you what, we'll check  
19 with Lubbock approach and see if they talked to [REDACTED]  
20 and --

21 [REDACTED] Okay.

22 [REDACTED] -- and maybe go from there.

23 [REDACTED] Okay. And if you could, if you  
24 could, you know, whatever information get me, you know,  
25 if you could just give us a call back here at [REDACTED]



1 [REDACTED] Just ask for New Mexico position.

2 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] Yes, [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] That's going to be the New Mexico  
5 position?

6 [REDACTED] Yes, [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] All right. We'll see what we can  
8 find out, I'll call you back here in just a few minutes.

9 [REDACTED] Thanks, [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] All right. Bye.

11 [REDACTED] Bye.

12 (Call ends).

13  
14  
15 (Phone busy).

16  
17  
18 [REDACTED] New Mexico desk. Can we help  
19 you?

20 FAA: Yes. This is Fort Worth Center calling  
21 back about that 711 ROMEO DELTA.

22 [REDACTED] Go ahead, [REDACTED]

23 FAA: We talked to the approach control there at  
24 Lubbock, Texas, and see if they had worked [REDACTED] sometime  
25 today either (inaudible) via fire or I afire, and they

1 have not been able to locate any records that they talked  
2 to them. They said they're familiar with the aircraft  
3 though.

4 [REDACTED] Okay.

5 FAA: But [REDACTED] is, I guess, [REDACTED] based up there in  
6 Plainview.

7 [REDACTED]: In Plainview? All right.

8 FAA: Yeah, they said they remembered talking to  
9 [REDACTED] probably yesterday, but they do not recall talking to  
10 [REDACTED] today, but they are going to continue their search,  
11 and I told them to call us back if they could come up  
12 with anything.

13 [REDACTED] Okay. That's great. I  
14 appreciate the work there.

15 FAA: That's all we know so far.

16 [REDACTED] All right. Thank you.

17 FAA: Good bye.

18 (CALL ends).

19  
20  
21 (Phone busy).

22  
23  
24 (Phone disconnected message).  
25

1  
2 [REDACTED]: This is [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] with U.S.  
4 Customs.

5 [REDACTED] Yes.  
6 [REDACTED] I have not found your airplane  
7 yet.

8 [REDACTED] Okay.  
9 [REDACTED] Tell you what I have done. I have  
10 talked to the police authority over there. They could  
11 not find it at Mineral Wells. I have talked to the FBO  
12 Miller Flying Service out of Plainview. They said  
13 they're familiar, but they wouldn't service it. It would  
14 be across the field into a hanger over there --

15 [REDACTED] Okay.  
16 [REDACTED] -- on the other side. They gave me  
17 a [REDACTED] phone number [REDACTED] Area code is  
18 [REDACTED] I cannot get anybody to answer that phone number.

19 [REDACTED] Okay.  
20 [REDACTED] I've talked to Dallas Fort Worth  
21 Center. They talked to Lubbock Approach who handles that  
22 area. They remember the airplane from yesterday.

23 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

24 [REDACTED] But they don't remember it today.

25 [REDACTED] Okay.

1 [REDACTED] I can give you a number to [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED] at Forth Worth Center.

3 [REDACTED] I think what we're going to do is  
4 we're going to send some people up there to start  
5 looking.

6 [REDACTED] Okay.

7 [REDACTED] At different places.

8 [REDACTED] Okay. And this was the city of  
9 Ardmore --

10 [REDACTED] Yeah.

11 [REDACTED] -- airplane. And did it have --  
12 you said it had have government officials onboard?

13 [REDACTED] Yeah.

14 [REDACTED] Is it just city of Ardmore  
15 officials or --

16 [REDACTED] No U.S. -- I mean Texas  
17 representatives.

18 [REDACTED] Texas?

19 [REDACTED] Right.

20 [REDACTED] Reps?

21 [REDACTED] Uh-huh. We're trying to locate, you  
22 know, I don't know -- well, we're trying to do some  
23 checking down here on it. Since there was no flight plan  
24 and all that we're -- we're checking some other things.  
25 I guess I'm really not at liberty to go too much further



1 than that.

2 [REDACTED] Okay.

3 [REDACTED] Okay.

4 [REDACTED] All right. It's no problem. I can  
5 given you [REDACTED] and they can do a search and  
6 rescue for you.

7 [REDACTED] No, that's okay.

8 [REDACTED] Okay.

9 [REDACTED] We don't want to go that far.

10 [REDACTED] Okay. All right. All right. No  
11 problem. They also had a [REDACTED] I think,  
12 number that I had in the book here for the airport for  
13 the hanger that it should be --

14 [REDACTED] Okay. What's [REDACTED] number?

15 [REDACTED] Let me look that up for you real  
16 quick, okay? Hang on one second, all right?

17 [REDACTED] (Conversation had by [REDACTED] not with

18 [REDACTED] Keep trying to call those guys they -- it rolls  
19 over to their --

20 [REDACTED] Yeah, [REDACTED] all right.  
21 Okay. [REDACTED] and they say [REDACTED] the area manager.  
22 And when I talked to the flying service down there, they  
23 said when [REDACTED] not there, this [REDACTED] handles  
24 everything.

25 [REDACTED] Okay.

1 [REDACTED] So I tried [REDACTED] number, and I didn't  
2 try the [REDACTED] number because [REDACTED] told me [REDACTED] wasn't in  
3 so....

4 [REDACTED]: Okay, [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]: Okay, Will.

6 [REDACTED]: I appreciate your help, man.

7 [REDACTED]: Okay. No problem. Thank you.

8 Bye.

9 [REDACTED] Bye.

10 (Call ends).

11  
12  
13 [REDACTED] Texas.

14 [REDACTED] Is [REDACTED] there?

15 [REDACTED] Yes, this is [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] this is Wil Crais.

17 [REDACTED] Yeah.

18 [REDACTED]: Hey, I just talked to the one of the  
19 representatives down here.

20 [REDACTED] Okay.

21 [REDACTED]: State representative. They want to  
22 do a search and rescue.

23 [REDACTED] Okay, sir.

24 [REDACTED]: What does it take? Now I told them  
25 that we had an individual? Is this [REDACTED] ---

1 where is [REDACTED] out of?

2 [REDACTED] Plainview.

3 [REDACTED]: Plainview?

4 [REDACTED] Yeah.

5 [REDACTED] I told [REDACTED] about that, and [REDACTED] says,  
6 no, let's do the search and rescue.

7 [REDACTED] Okay. I can give you the number  
8 for [REDACTED] at Forth Worth Center.

9 [REDACTED]: Okay.

10 [REDACTED]: And it's area code [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] --

12 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] --

13 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] --

14 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]: Okay.

16 [REDACTED]: And the FAA is usually the ones  
17 that's responsible for trying to find an airplane that's  
18 flying from Point A to Point B when it's missing.

19 [REDACTED]: Okay.

20 [REDACTED]: And they'll institute their  
21 procedures for going ahead and, you know, going from  
22 Point A to Point B and trying to find.

23 [REDACTED]: Do I need to explain that I have  
24 talked to you and all?

25 [REDACTED] Yeah. You can go ahead and do

1 that. You can tell [REDACTED] I've talked to [REDACTED]  
2 a couple of times.

3 [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] is?

4 [REDACTED]: I do not know [REDACTED] name. [REDACTED] just  
5 got a title there [REDACTED] for the FAA.

6 [REDACTED] Okay.

7 [REDACTED] And [REDACTED] go ahead and talk with  
8 you. I'm sure that they'll go ahead and implement  
9 whatever needs to be done and everything.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 [REDACTED] Okay, Wil?

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you.

13 [REDACTED] All right. Bye.

14 (Call ends).

15  
16  
17 SATO TRAVEL: Thank you for calling Sato Travel.  
18 Our office is currently closed. Our office hours are  
19 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. local time Monday through Friday.  
20 We are closed on federal holidays. If this is an  
21 emergency, please, call the emergency service center at 1  
22 (800) --

23 (Call ends).  
24  
25

1 SATO TRAVEL: Attention Sato Travel customers:  
2 Our menu options have changed. Please listen carefully  
3 and thank you for calling Sato Travel. For quality  
4 assurance purposes, this call may be monitored or  
5 recorded. Please listen to the menu in its entirety as  
6 it has changed.

7 If you're calling for international reservations  
8 including Alaska, Hawaii, and the Caribbean please push 1  
9 now. If you're calling for an Amtrak reservation, please  
10 press 2 now. If you require a car and/or hotel only  
11 reservation please press 3 now. For all other domestic  
12 air reservations within the 48 Continental United States,  
13 please press 4 now.

14 (Button pushed).  
15  
16

17 Thank you calling for Sato Travel. Our office  
18 is currently closed. Our office hours are 7:30 a.m. to  
19 5:30 p.m. local time Monday through Friday. We are  
20 closed on federal holidays. If this is an emergency,  
21 please call the emergency service center at [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]

23 (Call ends).  
24  
25



1           SATO TRAVEL: Thank you for calling Sato Travel.  
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5           please, call --

6           (Call ends).  
7  
8

9           SATO TRAVEL: Thank you for calling Sato Travel.  
10          Our office is currently closed. Our office hours are  
11          7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. local time Monday through Friday.  
12          We are closed on federal holidays --

13          (Call ends).  
14  
15  
16  
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23  
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25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 I, [REDACTED], a Shorthand Reporter do hereby  
6 state:  
7

8 That said taped phone conversation transcribed under  
9 my direction and supervision, and I hereby state the  
10 foregoing taped phone conversation is a full, true, and  
11 correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.

12 I further state that I am neither counsel for nor  
13 related to any party to said action nor in anyway  
14 interested in the outcome thereof.  
15  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25